

Sept. 2, 1995

UMP

Docket Number 93-48

Office of the Secretary of the FCC
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commissioners,

FCC MAIL ROOM

Your agency has been asked to clarify and strengthen the guidelines of the Children's Television Act. I have reviewed a copy of MM Docket No. 93-48.

I was gratified to read that you find the "current definition of educational and informational programming does not provide licenses with sufficient guidance regarding their obligation to air programming specifically designed to serve children's educational and informational needs."

The same applies to the viewer and what he expects educational programming to be. How can I go to the program director of the local station and ask, "Which of these programs are airing to fulfill the guidelines of the CTA" if neither of us has guidelines. Our local station considers having the area children draw weather pictures which are shown on the nightly 10:20 weather news as "being an educational program."

Commissioner James H. Quello makes a statement, Who Speaks for the First Amendment? I ask, Who Speaks for the Children? Page 34 of the Docket states, "the case law suggests the government has a substantial interest in furthering the education and welfare of children through implementation of the CTA." Your discussion further concludes, "The courts have held there is a compelling government interest in safeguarding the physical and psychological well being of a minor." The information in the accompanying article tells me the psychological well being of minors is being threatened. This despite two commissioners faith in the broadcasters that they of their own volition would provide wholesome and educational programming for children. I have been following news of up coming programs for fall and have seen no mention of any educational programs. Instead, I see what seems a flagrant attempt to do away with any programs for children.

I urge you to strengthen guidelines of the CTA to

1. Clearly define educational and informational programming.
2. Require stations to broadcast 1 hour per day of specifically designed educational and informational programs for children.
3. Insist such programs be of a standard length aired in a regularly scheduled time slot.
4. Specify that they should be aired between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM.

Our children are our future. Our children are depending on you.

Gwen Thibodeau
Gwen Thibodeau, Family Issues Chairman
Montana Association for
Family and Community Education
1850 Marshall Canyon Road
Missoula, Montana 59801

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Fall lineups replete with the rude and crude

By JAMES ENDRST
The Hartford Courant

If the 1995-96 prime-time season is truly a reflection of American society, as network programmers are saying, the country should wash its mouth and mind out with soap.

This is not a story about sex and violence, the V-chip, the First Amendment or the U.S. Congress.

This is a story about crass TV, the coarsening of America, a slow but steady slide into the gutter involving the nation's most pervasive and persuasive medium.

In the next few weeks, the four major networks — ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox

Broadcasting — will start rolling out their new fall lineups.

More than 30 new series — most of them comedies — will be introduced to prime time.

But viewers may be struck not so much by the shows this fall as by the scenes — TV moments signaling an aggregate acceptance of rude language, foul imagery and gross behavior in the entertainment mainstream.

One of the most striking examples is in a new CBS sitcom called "Bless This House," starring Andrew Clay, a stand-up comic formerly known as "the Diceman" whose routine was notoriously foul-

mouthed and anti-women.

Now Clay is being pitched as a big-hearted, blue-collar dad for the '90s named Burt Clayton.

"Bless This House," set for Wednesday nights at 8, is destined to be watched by millions, particularly opening night, when the Claytons' 12-year-old daughter, Danny, interrupts her mom's poker game to ask if her friend can stay over for the third time in a week.

"Are you having problems at home?" asks Alice Clayton, played by Cathy Moriarty.

No, the girl says, "My mom's just been having a lot of guys over."

Alice, within earshot of her daughter, concludes that the girl's mother wants her out of the house "so she can do it on the coffee table." Later in the same show, Danny says she needs her own bathroom.

"This wouldn't be a problem if you didn't spend all morning staring at your little hooters," her mother declares.

And finally, when Danny's 7-year-old brother, Sean, working on a Columbus Day project, asks, "What did Columbus do?" Danny answers, "He discovered America and gave the Indians syphilis."

This, in what used to be known as "the family hour" on what used to be known as "the Tiffany network."

KOTA
TERRITORY

Duhamel Broadcasting Enterprises

MMF

93-48

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September 7, 1995

Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

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Dear Mr. Hundt:

We are writing to object to your Notice of Proposed Rule Making to consider making the Children's Television Act more stringent.

The Commission, if it would take this type of action, is NOT giving the broadcasters and the producers a chance. Since the Children's Act was enacted, there has been more than double the amount of educational and informational children's programming. I believe that broadcasters, in general, understand the current definition of educational and informational children's programming.

We currently are airing four hours of network and syndicated children's programs, plus short segment programming which is also important and for which it should get credit.

Broadcasters will continue to develop and expand the hours for children's educational and informational programs; however, if the Commission would set a "quota for number of hours," while this would set a minimum, in all likelihood, it would also set a maximum. This would NOT be in the interest of all of us who are concerned about our youth.

General audience programming can provide substantial educational benefits for children and should NOT be ignored or discarded just because it is not specifically developed just for children.

I urge you to let the broadcasters of America show their continued support of the Act as they are presently doing.

Sincerely,

DUHAMEL BROADCASTING ENTERPRISES



Monte Loos
Operations Manager

WFD:ML:dw

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PHOENIX

Patrick W. North
Vice President
& General Manager

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September 5, 1995

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., NW
Washington, DC. 20554

Dear Chairman,

As rule making begins on MM DOCKET NO. 93-48, I would like to express our point of view from KPHO/ARIZONA 5, CBS in Phoenix, Arizona.

Broadcasters have SIGNIFICANTLY increased children's educational and informational programming in response to the Children's Television Act. The Act and current FCC rules are working to increase production and development of programming related to children and new rules are not needed.

Local broadcasters understand the current definition of educational and informational children's programming, and we are working every day to find new and innovative ways of reaching children.

In terms of reaching children with knowledge and ideas that they understand, I would propose that short segment programming is important for kids and should get credit. There is more value in producing short form programming that children will watch that requiring a pre-described amount of hours that children may choose not to watch.

At KPHO/ARIZONA 5 we are always looking for ways to reach the children of Arizona in an informative and educational way. The rules as they currently stand and our personnel dedication to children is sufficient for reaching the important goal of educating our children.

Sincerely,

Patrick W. North
V.P. & General Manager

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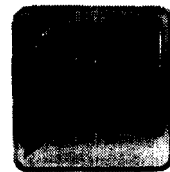
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Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Secretary:

This letter is to inform you that the rules requiring quotas for the amount of children's programming are unnecessary. We believe that broadcasters have significantly increased and are going beyond the requirements of the Children Television Act, and are very aware and concerned with Children's Programming.

We believe that the Act and the current FCC rules are working to increase this programming and new rules are not needed.

We appreciate your time in hearing our views.

Sincerely

Don Hale
V.P. & General Manager

cc: Chairman Reed Hundt
Commissioner James Quello
Commissioner Andrew Barrett
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Rachelle Chong

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P.O. BOX 12289/6140 BUENA VISTA ROAD
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September 8, 1995

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Chairman Reed Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W.
Washington, DC 20554

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Chairman Hundt:

WLTZ wishes to stand in opposition to the possibility of "numerical quotas" for educational and informational children's programming as suggested in the FCC Notice of Proposed Rule Making. Re: MM Docket No. 93-48

The NAB is filing a new study showing a greater than 100% increase by television broadcasters as a whole since passage of the Children's Television Act. This would point toward recognition that the current FCC rules are working and that new rules are not needed.

Broadcasters understand the current definition of the term: "educational and informational children's programming", which needs no change. Stations and other program suppliers are producing the quality product to meet that definition.

Quantifying rules are also unnecessary as broadcasters are already responding to the current rules with more and better educational and informational programming for children. Quotas also suggest a set maximum as well as the minimum.

It is our belief that short segment programming is important for children and should get credit. Educational and informational inserts aimed at children during other entertainment programming can frequently reach greater numbers of the very audience the Act wishes to reach.

Hopefully, the FCC will find that the proposed tightening of rules has become unnecessary and that broadcasters have, in fact, proven to be responsible members of our community and in particular toward those served by the Children's Television Act.

Most sincerely,

Tom Breazeale, III
Vice President/General Manager

TB: cg

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